

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brad Groff on 9/25/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

- Replaced claim 19 with the following:

--19. (currently amended) A lancing device comprising:

a reciprocating lancet carrier for releasably engaging a replaceable lancet, the lancet carrier traversing a linear path of travel along a forward stroke and a return stroke; and

a pair of torsion springs operating in tandem to advance the lancet carrier along the forward stroke, and to retract the lancet carrier along the return stroke, wherein a first one of the pair of torsion springs is mounted laterally offset on a first side of the linear path of travel, and wherein a second one of the pair of torsion springs is mounted laterally offset on a second side of the linear path of travel generally opposite the first side.--

- Claims 17 and 18 are canceled.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 17 and 18 directed to an invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. The prior art of record fails to teach or render obvious a lancing device comprising, inter alia, a lancet carrier traversing a linear path of travel along a forward stroke and return stroke; and a pair of torsion springs operating in tandem to advance the lancet carrier along the forward stroke, wherein a first torsion spring is mounted laterally offset on a first side of the linear path of travel, and a second torsion spring is mounted laterally offside on a second side of the linear path of travel opposite the first side. This configuration is common to independent claims 1, 8, 12 and 19. With respect to claims 1, 8 and 12, the springs are mounted on a first and second spring axle on either side of the linear path of travel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Darwin P. Erezó whose telephone number is (571)272-4695. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on (571) 272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Darwin P. Erezó/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773